# Organizing the GED® Extended Response (Essay)

Use the worksheet as a guide to organize evidence that you will use to write your extended response (essay) to respond to the following writing prompt.

*In your response, analyze both positions presented in the articles to determine which one is best supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the articles to support your response.*

**Part 1**

**Directions:** After reading the passage, answer these questions to help you to analyze it.

**Evaluating the Passage**

| **Question** | **Passage 1** | **Passage 2** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What is the author’s main argument? Use your own words to summarize the main idea. |  |  |
| 2. What position does the author take (for or against)? |  |  |
| 3. What is one piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 4. What is a second piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 5. What is a third piece of evidence presented to support the author’s argument? What is the source of the information? Is the source reliable? |  |  |
| 6. What are the major underlying assumptions that the author makes? Do you think they are reasonable and acceptable to most people? |  |  |

**Part 2(A)**

**Directions:** Now, we will organize evidence from the passages. First, list all the evidence that supports the main argument. Next, select the type of evidence from the drop-down menu. Lastly, select if it is valid or not.

**Argumentative Essay Organizer for Supporting Evidence**

| **Supporting Evidence** | **Type of Evidence** | **Valid Evidence (Yes or No)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |

**Part 2(B)**

**Directions:** Now, list all the evidence that opposes the argument. Next, select the type of evidence from the drop-down menu. Lastly, select if it is valid or not.

**Argumentative Essay Organizer for Opposing Evidence**

| **Supporting Evidence** | **Type of Evidence** | **Valid Evidence (Yes or No)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
|  | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |

**Part 3**

**Directions:** State your claim (which argument is better supported). Provide three reasons and include supporting evidence with each reason. **Make sure to include evidence from both sides.**

| **State Your Claim** |
| --- |
| **Claim (decision):** |
| **Reason 1:**  **Supporting Evidence:** |
| **Reason 2:**  **Supporting Evidence:** |
| **Reason 3:**  **Supporting Evidence:** |

**Part 4**

**Directions:** Use the paragraph organizer below to help you practice structuring your essay. You will use your claim and supporting evidence from Part 3 of this worksheet to write your essay. Remember to include 4 to 7 sentences per paragraph.

**Write Your Extended Response (Essay)**

**Paragraph 1:** Introduction (include the main idea of your essay and your claim. You might want to write this after you complete paragraphs 2-4).



**Paragraph 2:** First piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).



**Paragraph 3:** Second piece of evidence making this position stronger (remember to include evidence from both sides).



**Paragraph 4 (optional):** Third piece of evidence making this position stronger.



**Paragraph 5:** Conclusion (summarize your essay)



**Part 5(A)**

**Directions:** Evaluate your extended response using Traits 1 and 2 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

**Evaluate Traits 1 and 2**

| **Trait 1: Creation of Argument and Use of Evidence** | **Yes or No?** |
| --- | --- |
| Is there a clear central claim? | Choose an item. |
| Is sufficient evidence from the passages included? | Choose an item. |
| Is the validity of both arguments evaluated? | Choose an item. |

| **Trait 2: Development of Ideas and Organizational Structure** | **Yes or No?** |
| --- | --- |
| Is there a clear central claim? | Choose an item. |
| Is sufficient evidence from the passages included? | Choose an item. |
| Is the validity of both arguments evaluated? | Choose an item. |

**Part 5(B)**

**Directions:** Evaluate your extended response using Trait 3 of the extended response rubric in the tables below. If you answer no to any of the questions, revise your response accordingly.

**Evaluate Trait 3**

| **Sentence Structure** | **Yes or No?** |
| --- | --- |
| Are all sentences complete? | Choose an item. |
| Is there a variety of sentence types and lengths? | Choose an item. |
| Is the response easy to follow? | Choose an item. |

| **Grammar** | **Yes or No?** |
| --- | --- |
| Do all verbs agree with their subjects? | Choose an item. |
| Are all pronouns in the correct form? | Choose an item. |
| Are all sentences correctly punctuated? | Choose an item. |
| Are apostrophes used correctly? | Choose an item. |
| Are words spelled correctly? | Choose an item. |
| Is correct capitalization used? | Choose an item. |